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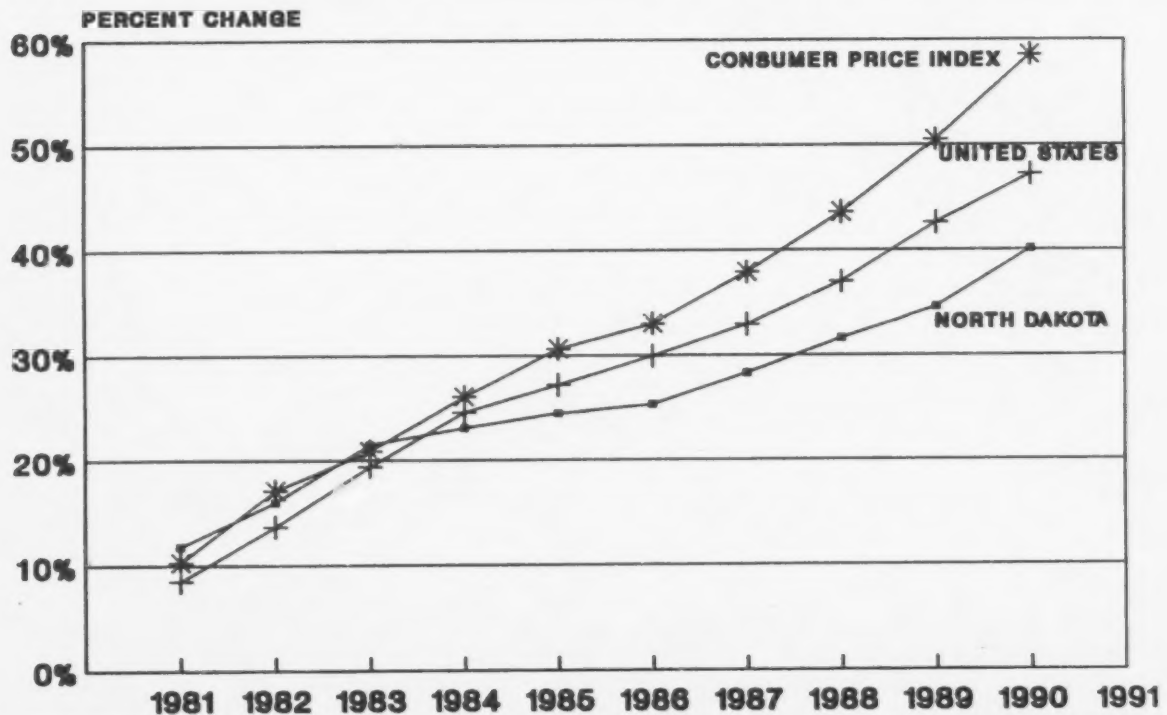
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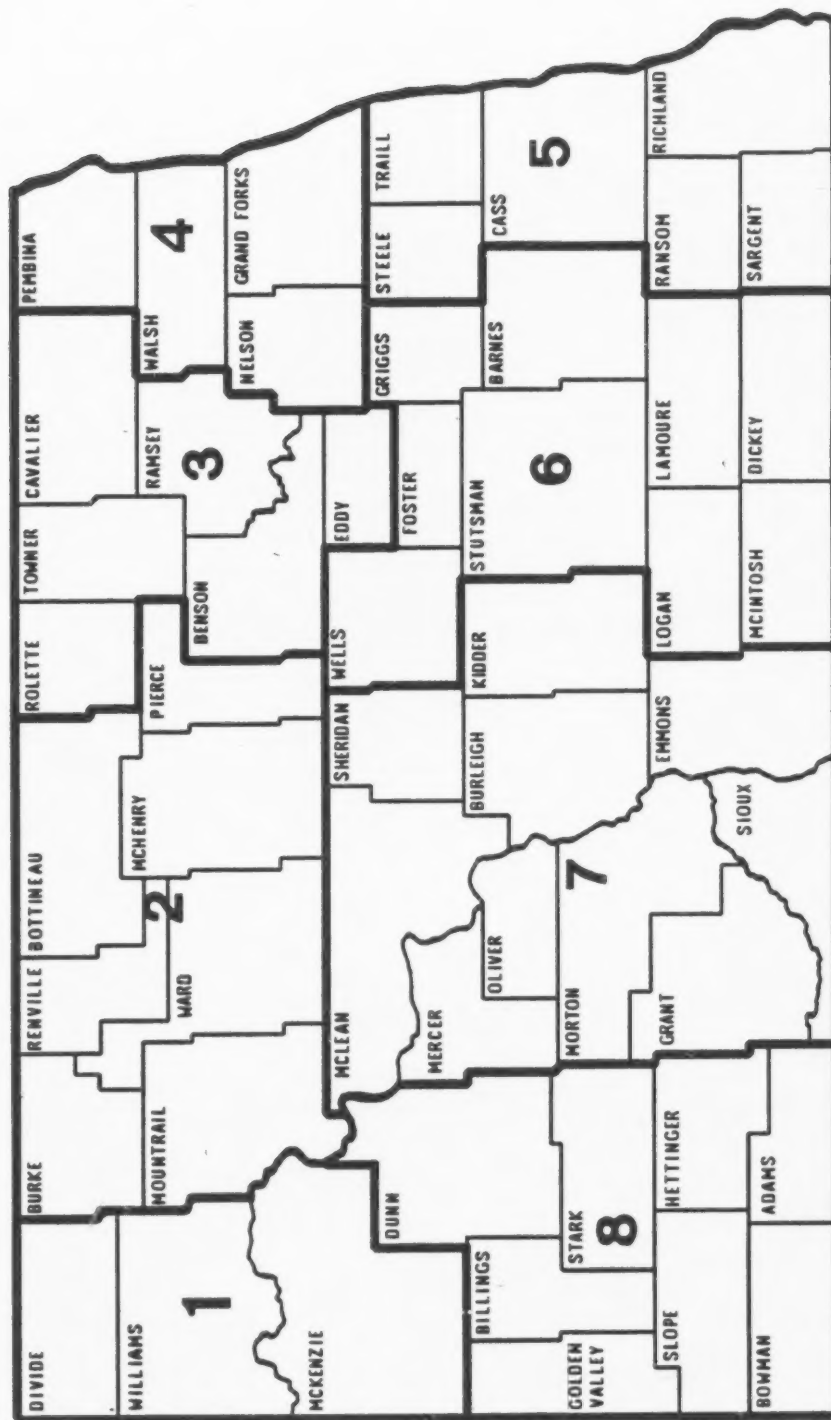
The North Dakota Labor Market Advisor

WAGES AND CONSUMER PRICE INDEX PERCENT CHANGES FROM 1980



NORTH DAKOTA STATE PLANNING REGIONS

Labor force, employment, and hours and earnings estimates are compiled in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.



**THE
NORTH DAKOTA
LABOR MARKET ADVISOR**

April, 1991

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STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA**

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A REVIEW OF 1990 / WHAT'S AHEAD IN 1991

Observing the movement of employment covered by unemployment insurance for the past ten years has not been too exciting. It's like traveling on a road through gently rolling hills. Sometimes there is a slight rise only to give way to a downward slope before moving upward again. This was the story of covered employment in North Dakota until the late 1980's.

In 1980, employment averaged 225,755. During 1981, it recorded a healthy gain of 4,290. However, in the following years, increases were small, ranging from 700 to 1,700. In 1985, we entered a "valley" with employment dropping by nearly 600. The following year, the downtrend continued at an accelerated pace with a drop of nearly 2,400. These were the only two years where declines occurred in the past twenty years. In 1987, employment started to increase again and has been moving upward continuously for the past four years and averaged 245,700 in 1990.

In 1980, the total payroll of employers covered by unemployment insurance was slightly greater than \$2.8 billion. By 1990, this figure had risen, exceeding \$4.3 billion. During this period, total wages increased each year, even though there were two years where employment declined. In 1980 and 1981, at the height of the oil boom, wages rose by 10 percent and 14 percent respectively, while employment recorded gains of only 1 percent to 2 percent. Since 1980, the percentage gain in wages has exceeded the percentage increase in employment.

While historic data provides a general background, recent developments hold more interest for the majority of readers. As mentioned in the second paragraph, employment rose sharply, particularly between 1989 and 1990. Where did these increases occur and can we expect the trend to continue?

Employment has increased at a faster pace in the past two years than at any other time since 1981. A comparison of employment changes between 1989 and 1990 indicates only four of the nine nonagricultural industries recorded increases in both years. As usual, services was the leader, accounting for 57 percent of the total increase in the two years. Although all segments recorded gains, two accounted for two-thirds of the growth within the services industry: Medical services, as in the past, continued to grow, adding 1,695 workers; a close second was social services with the addition of 1,440. These two industries have demonstrated steady growth in recent years. As the population ages and demand continues to grow for both medical and social services, additional growth in these industries appears to be inevitable.

Manufacturing increased sharply between 1989 and 1990 after showing no growth the prior year. Although employment in lumber and wood products recorded a healthy gain of nearly 250, the majority of the increase involved metal products, primarily machinery and transportation equipment. These gains in the durable goods segment were offset slightly by some employment losses in the nondurable goods segment.

While employment edged up by 8.9 percent (20,000) during the past ten years, total wages rose by 56.5 percent (\$1.6 billion). The more rapid increase in wages is an effort on the part of employers to provide additional income to keep pace with inflation which is measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI).

A better comparison to determine whether or not wages have kept pace is the percentage increase of the average annual earnings of workers. In 1988, workers averaged \$16,501. In 1989, the average rose to \$16,924 and climbed to \$17,625 in 1990. This represents

percentage increases of 2.6 percent from 1988 to 1989 and 4.1 percent from 1989 to 1990.

The average annual Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers, All Items Index, increased by 4.8 percent between 1988 and 1989 and by 5.4 percent between 1989 and 1990.

It appears that employees are losing ground when it comes to inflation. While the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased at a faster rate than employees' earnings, both sets of data have limitations that must be taken into consideration.

The CPI measures the change in the cost of a market basket of goods and services purchased by the average consumer. The CPI is frequently referred to as "the cost of living index." While it does represent the change in the cost of a selected "basket" of goods and services, these costs may not represent your ratio of expenditures. For example, all categories in the CPI are "weighted" based on its relative importance. Out of a total of 100, housing is assigned a weight of 41.356. The cost of housing, based on the CPI, went up by 4.5 percent from April 1990 to April 1991. Your housing costs may not be "average." They may be higher if your income is low and you have a number of dependents. On the other hand, it may be lower if your home is paid for and you live in an area with lower taxes. Although housing costs represent over two-fifths of the average consumer's total expenditure, it will vary depending on your individual situation.

The average annual earnings of workers covered by unemployment insurance has some limitations, too. Workers are included whether they work full-time or part-time. It would have a tendency to lower average earnings if the ratio of part-time to total workers increases. This affects the average earnings of all workers.

A look back at 1990 shows some positive activity. Average employment increased by nearly 4,900--the largest increase in a decade. Average earnings also rose at a faster pace

than the preceding year. Although average earnings did not equal the increase in the CPI in 1990, the gap between the percentages of the two was closer than it was in the prior year.

The year 1991 also has some positive indicators. Employment continues to exceed year-ago figures in all industries except government where there is a slight decrease. Unemployment is running below year-ago levels. Recent rains have brought the year-to-date totals above the normal precipitation level for the first time since 1987. The rains have improved soil moisture conditions and brightened the outlook for crop production. These are early indicators, but they generate a degree of optimism for North Dakota's economy in 1991.

Dale R. Dehlin,
Research Analyst

NORTH DAKOTA NONAG WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

(Rounded to Fifty)

INDUSTRIES	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	% CHANGE FROM	ONE YEAR AGO	% CHANGE FROM
	April 1991	March 1991	March 1991	April 1990	April 1990
TOTAL NONAG	268,350	265,700	1.0%	264,100	1.6%
GOODS PRODUCING	30,550	29,500	3.6%	29,350	4.1%
MINING	4,400	4,300	2.3%	4,100	7.3%
Coal	1,050	1,050	0.0%	1,050	0.0%
Crude Petroleum & Nat. Gas	3,000	3,000	0.0%	2,800	7.1%
Other Mining	350	250	40.0%	250	40.0%
CONSTRUCTION	8,550	7,500	14.0%	8,650	-1.2%
Building Construction	2,100	2,000	5.0%	2,200	-4.5%
Street, Highway & Heavy	1,950	1,300	50.0%	1,850	5.4%
Special Trade Construction	4,500	4,200	7.1%	4,600	-2.2%
MANUFACTURING	17,600	17,700	-0.6%	16,600	6.0%
Durable Goods	9,300	9,200	1.1%	8,750	6.3%
Fabricated Metals	1,000	1,000	0.0%	1,100	-9.1%
Machinery, Electric & Trans. Equip	5,900	5,950	-0.8%	5,450	8.3%
Machinery & Electrical Equipment	4,200	4,200	0.0%	3,800	10.5%
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,750	-2.9%	1,650	3.0%
Other Durable Goods	2,400	2,250	6.7%	2,200	9.1%
Lumber & Wood	1,200	1,200	0.0%	1,100	9.1%
Misc Durable Goods	1,200	1,050	14.3%	1,100	9.1%
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,500	-2.4%	7,850	5.7%
Food & Kindred Products	4,250	4,450	-4.5%	3,900	9.0%
Dairy Products	600	600	0.0%	650	-7.7%
Grain Mill & Bakery Products	1,000	1,050	-4.8%	850	17.6%
Sugar & Confectionary	700	900	-22.2%	550	27.3%
Other Foods	1,950	1,900	2.6%	1,850	5.4%
Paper Products & Printing & Publishing	2,600	2,600	0.0%	2,500	4.0%
Other Nondurable Goods	1,450	1,450	0.0%	1,450	0.0%
SERVICES PRODUCING	237,800	236,200	0.7%	234,750	1.3%
TRAN, COMM & UTILITIES	16,950	17,000	-0.3%	17,000	-0.3%
Transportation	8,850	8,800	0.6%	8,900	-0.6%
Trucking & Warehousing	4,900	4,900	0.0%	5,000	-2.0%
Other Transportation	3,950	3,900	1.3%	3,900	1.3%
Railroads	1,850	1,800	2.8%	1,850	0.0%
Local & Suburban Transportation	850	900	-5.6%	900	-5.6%
Water, Air & Pipeline	1,250	1,200	4.2%	1,150	8.7%
Communications	3,500	3,500	0.0%	3,400	2.9%
Utilities	4,600	4,700	-2.1%	4,700	-2.1%
WHOLESALE TRADE	19,100	19,000	0.5%	19,300	-1.0%
Durable Goods	8,900	8,800	1.1%	8,900	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	10,200	10,200	0.0%	10,400	-1.9%

NORTH DAKOTA NONAG WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

(Rounded to Fifty)

INDUSTRIES	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	% CHANGE FROM	ONE YEAR AGO	% CHANGE FROM
	April 1991	March 1991	March 1991	April 1990	April 1990
RETAIL TRADE	52,150	51,150	2.0%	50,000	4.3%
Hardware & Garden	2,300	2,300	0.0%	2,300	0.0%
General Merchandise	7,500	7,500	0.0%	6,200	21.0%
Food Stores	7,100	7,000	1.4%	7,100	0.0%
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	6,900	6,800	1.5%	6,900	0.0%
Apparel & Accessory	2,400	2,400	0.0%	2,600	-7.7%
Furniture Stores	1,650	1,650	0.0%	1,600	3.1%
Eating & Drinking Places	18,500	17,800	3.9%	17,900	3.4%
Misc Retail	5,800	5,700	1.8%	5,400	7.4%
FINANCE, INS & REAL ESTATE	12,500	12,450	0.4%	12,350	1.2%
Finance	6,500	6,500	0.0%	6,550	-0.8%
Banking	5,500	5,500	0.0%	5,600	-1.8%
Other Finance	1,000	1,000	0.0%	950	5.3%
Insurance	4,100	4,100	0.0%	3,900	5.1%
Insurance Underwriters	2,600	2,600	0.0%	2,500	4.0%
Insurance Agents & Brokers	1,500	1,500	0.0%	1,400	7.1%
Real Estate	1,900	1,850	2.7%	1,900	0.0%
SERVICES	70,400	70,100	0.4%	68,400	2.9%
Lodging	4,500	4,500	0.0%	4,400	2.3%
Personal & Business	8,200	8,300	-1.2%	8,100	1.2%
Personal Services	3,300	3,200	3.1%	3,300	0.0%
Business Services	4,900	5,100	-3.9%	4,800	2.1%
Recreational Services	2,500	2,400	4.2%	2,400	4.2%
Health Services	29,300	29,100	0.7%	28,300	3.5%
Nursing & Hospital	21,400	21,300	0.5%	20,600	3.9%
Other Health	7,900	7,800	1.3%	7,700	2.6%
Educational Services	3,100	3,200	-3.1%	3,100	0.0%
Social Services	7,000	6,900	1.4%	6,400	9.4%
Membership Organizations	8,400	8,400	0.0%	8,200	2.4%
Other Services	7,400	7,300	1.4%	7,500	-1.3%
Auto & Misc Repair	2,300	2,400	-4.2%	2,300	0.0%
Legal Services	1,500	1,500	0.0%	1,500	0.0%
Misc Services	3,600	3,400	5.9%	3,700	-2.7%
GOVERNMENT	66,700	66,500	0.3%	67,700	-1.5%
Federal	10,200	10,100	1.0%	11,300	-9.7%
State & Local	56,500	56,400	0.2%	56,400	0.2%
State Government	20,500	20,500	0.0%	20,400	0.5%
Educational Services	13,300	13,400	-0.7%	13,400	-0.7%
Other State Government	7,200	7,100	1.4%	7,000	2.9%
Local Government	36,000	35,900	0.3%	36,000	0.0%
Educational Services	18,300	18,400	-0.5%	18,300	0.0%
Other Local Government	17,700	17,500	1.1%	17,700	0.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRIES	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	% CHANGE FROM	ONE YEAR AGO	% CHANGE FROM
	April 1991	March 1991	March 1991	April 1990	April 1990
BISMARCK MSA					
TOTAL NONAG	40,900	40,350	1.4%	39,800	2.8%
GOODS PRODUCING	4,150	3,800	9.2%	4,050	2.5%
MINING & CONSTRUCTION	1,850	1,550	19.4%	1,900	-2.6%
MANUFACTURING	2,300	2,250	2.2%	2,150	7.0%
Durable Goods	950	900	5.6%	950	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	1,350	1,350	0.0%	1,200	12.5%
SERVICES PRODUCING	36,750	36,550	0.5%	35,750	2.8%
TRANS, COMM. & UTILITIES	2,900	2,850	1.8%	2,850	1.8%
Transportation	1,250	1,200	4.2%	1,200	4.2%
Communications & Utilities	1,650	1,650	0.0%	1,650	0.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	2,100	2,100	0.0%	2,200	-4.5%
RETAIL TRADE	8,150	8,200	-0.6%	7,950	2.5%
General Merchandise & Apparel	1,700	1,750	-2.9%	1,550	9.7%
Food Stores	1,000	1,050	-4.8%	1,050	-4.8%
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	1,000	1,000	0.0%	1,100	-9.1%
Eating & Drinking Places	2,700	2,700	0.0%	2,600	3.8%
Other Retail	1,750	1,700	2.9%	1,650	6.1%
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	1,500	1,500	0.0%	1,450	3.4%
SERVICES	12,900	12,800	0.8%	12,350	4.5%
Lodging	1,000	1,000	0.0%	900	11.1%
Personal & Business	1,450	1,450	0.0%	1,450	0.0%
Health Services	5,400	5,400	0.0%	5,000	8.0%
Educational Services	850	850	0.0%	850	0.0%
Social Services	1,200	1,200	0.0%	1,150	4.3%
Membership Organizations	1,250	1,250	0.0%	1,300	-3.8%
Other Services	1,750	1,650	6.1%	1,700	2.9%
GOVERNMENT	9,200	9,100	1.1%	8,950	2.8%
Federal	1,100	1,100	0.0%	1,250	-12.0%
State	4,350	4,200	3.6%	4,050	7.4%
State Education	350	300	16.7%	350	0.0%
Other State	4,000	3,900	2.6%	3,700	8.1%
Local	3,750	3,800	-1.3%	3,650	2.7%
Local Education	2,100	2,100	0.0%	2,100	0.0%
Other Local	1,650	1,700	-2.9%	1,550	6.5%

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRIES	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	% CHANGE FROM	ONE YEAR AGO	% CHANGE FROM
	April 1991	March 1991	March 1991	April 1990	April 1990
FARGO-MOORHEAD MSA					
TOTAL NONAG	79,250	78,150	1.4%	76,900	3.1%
GOODS PRODUCING	8,650	8,300	4.2%	8,600	0.6%
MINING & CONSTRUCTION	3,200	2,750	16.4%	3,200	0.0%
Special Trade	1,800	1,650	9.1%	1,850	-2.7%
Other Mining & Construction	1,400	1,100	27.3%	1,350	3.7%
MANUFACTURING	5,450	5,550	-1.8%	5,400	0.9%
Durable Goods	2,800	2,700	3.7%	2,750	1.8%
Fabricated Metals & Machinery	1,500	1,500	0.0%	1,450	3.4%
Other Durable Goods	1,300	1,200	8.3%	1,300	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	2,650	2,850	-7.0%	2,650	0.0%
Food & Kindred	1,650	1,850	-10.8%	1,650	0.0%
Other Nondurable Goods	1,000	1,000	0.0%	1,000	0.0%
SERVICES PRODUCING	70,600	69,850	1.1%	68,300	3.4%
TRANS, COMM & UTILITIES	4,750	4,800	-1.0%	4,650	2.2%
Trucking & Warehousing	2,300	2,300	0.0%	2,100	9.5%
Other Transportation	900	950	-5.3%	1,000	-10.0%
Communications & Utilities	1,550	1,550	0.0%	1,550	0.0%
WHOLESALE TRADE	6,800	6,700	1.5%	6,800	0.0%
Durable Goods	3,800	3,700	2.7%	3,800	0.0%
Nondurable Goods	3,000	3,000	0.0%	3,000	0.0%
RETAIL TRADE	16,100	15,800	1.9%	15,200	5.9%
General Merchandise & Apparel	3,100	3,100	0.0%	2,900	6.9%
Food Stores	2,100	2,000	5.0%	2,000	5.0%
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	2,000	2,000	0.0%	1,900	5.3%
Eating & Drinking Places	6,100	6,000	1.7%	5,700	7.0%
Other Retail	2,800	2,700	3.7%	2,700	3.7%
FINANCE, INS & REAL ESTATE	4,650	4,650	0.0%	4,600	1.1%
Finance	2,000	2,000	0.0%	2,000	0.0%
Insurance Carriers	1,550	1,600	-3.1%	1,500	3.3%
Other Insurance & Real Estate	1,100	1,050	4.8%	1,100	0.0%
SERVICES	22,850	22,450	1.8%	21,800	4.8%
Lodging	1,400	1,400	0.0%	1,350	3.7%
Personal & Business	3,800	3,800	0.0%	3,600	5.6%
Recreation & Amusement	900	850	5.9%	850	5.9%
Health Services	8,300	8,200	1.2%	7,900	5.1%
Educational Services	2,300	2,200	4.5%	2,200	4.5%
Social Services	1,850	1,700	8.8%	1,650	12.1%
Membership Organizations	1,600	1,600	0.0%	1,550	3.2%
Other Services	2,700	2,700	0.0%	2,700	0.0%
GOVERNMENT	15,450	15,450	0.0%	15,250	1.3%
Federal	2,300	2,300	0.0%	2,400	-4.2%
State	6,350	6,350	0.0%	6,250	1.6%
State Education	5,800	5,800	0.0%	5,700	1.8%
Other State	550	550	0.0%	550	0.0%
Local	6,800	6,800	0.0%	6,600	3.0%
Local Education	4,300	4,300	0.0%	4,100	4.9%
Other Local	2,500	2,500	0.0%	2,500	0.0%

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT

INDUSTRIES	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	% CHANGE FROM	ONE YEAR AGO	% CHANGE FROM
	April 1991	March 1991	March 1991	April 1990	April 1990
GRAND FORKS MSA					
TOTAL NONAG	32,250	31,950	0.9%	31,500	2.4%
GOODS PRODUCING	2,650	2,600	1.9%	2,550	3.9%
MINING & CONSTRUCTION	900	850	5.9%	950	-5.3%
MANUFACTURING	1,750	1,750	0.0%	1,600	9.4%
Durable Goods	700	700	0.0%	600	16.7%
Nondurable Goods	1,050	1,050	0.0%	1,000	5.0%
SERVICES PRODUCING	29,600	29,350	0.9%	28,950	2.2%
TRANS. COMM. & UTILITIES	1,700	1,700	0.0%	1,700	0.0%
Transportation	1,050	1,050	0.0%	1,000	5.0%
Communications & Utilities	650	650	0.0%	700	-7.1%
WHOLESALE TRADE	1,550	1,550	0.0%	1,550	0.0%
RETAIL TRADE	7,700	7,600	1.3%	7,450	3.4%
General Merchandise & Apparel	2,000	2,000	0.0%	1,850	8.1%
Eating & Drinking Places	2,900	2,800	3.6%	2,800	3.6%
Other Retail	2,800	2,800	0.0%	2,800	0.0%
FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE	1,050	1,050	0.0%	1,100	-4.5%
SERVICES	7,550	7,300	3.4%	7,150	5.6%
Personal & Business	1,050	1,000	5.0%	950	10.5%
Health Services	3,000	2,900	3.4%	2,800	7.1%
Other Services	3,500	3,400	2.9%	3,400	2.9%
GOVERNMENT	10,050	10,150	-1.0%	10,000	0.5%
Federal	1,550	1,550	0.0%	1,600	-3.1%
State	5,850	5,950	-1.7%	5,850	0.0%
State Education	5,400	5,500	-1.8%	5,400	0.0%
Other State	450	450	0.0%	450	0.0%
Local	2,650	2,650	0.0%	2,550	3.9%
Local Education	1,500	1,500	0.0%	1,400	7.1%
Other Local	1,150	1,150	0.0%	1,150	0.0%

UNITED STATES
MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

<i>INDUSTRY</i>	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990
MANUFACTURING	445.91	443.91	427.85	40.1	40.1	39.8	11.12	11.07	10.75
Durable Goods	471.83	469.80	452.17	40.5	40.5	40.3	11.65	11.60	11.22
Nondurable Goods	410.80	410.65	395.92	39.5	39.6	39.2	10.40	10.37	10.10

NORTH DAKOTA
MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

<i>INDUSTRY</i>	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990
MANUFACTURING	358.09	349.83	352.34	39.7	39.0	39.5	9.02	8.97	8.92
Durable Goods	377.29	365.90	380.64	40.7	39.6	41.6	9.27	9.24	9.15
Nondurable Goods	334.95	330.43	316.48	38.5	38.2	36.8	8.70	8.65	8.60
Food & Kindred	343.10	339.42	322.87	40.7	40.6	38.3	8.43	8.36	8.43

FARGO-MOORHEAD MSA
MANUFACTURING HOURS AND EARNINGS

<i>INDUSTRY</i>	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990
MANUFACTURING	334.43	331.01	329.35	37.2	37.7	37.9	8.99	8.78	8.69
Durable Goods	332.06	322.24	321.83	38.3	38.0	39.2	8.67	8.48	8.21
Nondurable Goods	336.60	339.22	339.09	36.0	37.4	36.5	9.35	9.07	9.29

LABOR FORCE

NORTH DAKOTA AND MSA'S

	CURRENT MONTH	PREVIOUS MONTH	% CHANGE FROM	ONE YEAR AGO	% CHANGE FROM
	APR 1991	MAR 1991	MAR 1991	APR 1990	APR 1990
UNITED STATES					
(In Thousands)					
Labor Force	127,128	126,786	0.3%	126,543	0.5%
Employment	118,854	118,214	0.5%	119,773	-0.8%
Unemployment	8,274	8,572	-3.5%	6,770	22.2%
Unemployment Rate	6.5%	6.8%	xxx	5.3%	xxx
NORTH DAKOTA					
Labor Force	323,250	319,010	1.3%	324,360	-0.3%
Employment	311,280	305,160	2.0%	311,350	0.0%
Unemployment	11,970	13,850	-13.6%	13,010	-8.0%
Unemployment Rate	3.7%	4.3%	xxx	4.0%	xxx
BISMARCK MSA					
Labor Force	47,550	47,130	0.9%	46,990	1.2%
Employment	45,900	45,120	1.7%	45,270	1.4%
Unemployment	1,650	2,010	-17.9%	1,720	-4.1%
Unemployment Rate	3.5%	4.3%	xxx	3.7%	xxx
FARGO-MOORHEAD MSA					
Labor Force	90,210	89,290	1.0%	88,180	2.3%
Employment	87,180	86,140	1.2%	85,680	1.8%
Unemployment	3,030	3,150	-3.8%	2,500	21.2%
Unemployment Rate	3.4%	3.5%	xxx	2.8%	xxx
GRAND FORKS MSA					
Labor Force	35,980	35,840	0.4%	35,920	0.2%
Employment	34,950	34,610	1.0%	34,610	1.0%
Unemployment	1,030	1,230	-16.3%	1,310	-21.4%
Unemployment Rate	2.8%	3.4%	xxx	3.6%	xxx

U. S. data seasonally adjusted, other data not seasonally adjusted.

The Bismarck Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) includes Burleigh and Morton Counties.

The Fargo-Moorhead MSA includes Cass and Clay Counties.

The Grand Forks MSA includes Grand Forks County.

BORDERING STATE LABOR FORCE COMPARISONS

(In Thousands)
MAR 1991

	NORTH DAKOTA	MINNESOTA	SOUTH DAKOTA	MONTANA
Labor Force	319.0	2,436.2	355.7	405.9
Employment	305.2	2,298.5	340.2	370.2
Unemployment	13.8	137.7	15.5	35.7
Unemployment Rate	4.3%	5.7%	4.4%	8.8%

U. S. CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

ALL URBAN CONSUMERS

(1982-84 = 100)

ITEM	ANNUAL AVERAGE 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	Percent Change From MAR 1991	APR 1990	Percent Change From APR 1990
All Items	130.7	135.2	135.0	0.1%	128.9	4.9%
Food & Beverage	132.1	137.2	136.3	0.7%	131.0	4.7%
Housing	128.5	132.5	132.6	-0.1%	126.8	4.5%
Apparel & Upkeep	124.1	130.1	128.8	1.0%	126.7	2.7%
Transportation	120.5	122.2	122.3	-0.1%	117.3	4.2%
Medical Care	162.8	174.4	173.7	0.4%	159.8	9.1%
Entertainment	132.4	137.7	136.7	0.7%	131.4	4.8%
All Other	159.0	168.8	167.9	0.5%	155.8	8.3%

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX

UNITED STATES AVERAGE

ITEM	ANNUAL AVERAGE 1990	APR 1991	MAR 1991	Percent Change From MAR 1991	APR 1990	Percent Change From APR 1990
All Commodities	116.3	116.0	116.1	-0.1%	114.1	1.7%
Farm Products & Processed Foods and Feeds	118.6	118.2	118.3	-0.1%	113.2	4.4%
Industrial Commodities	115.8	115.5	115.6	-0.1%	118.5	-2.5%

LABOR FORCE - BY COUNTY - BY REGION

	LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE		
	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90
Divide	1,309	1,281	1,304	1,273	1,232	1,345	36	49	19	2.8%	3.8%	1.4%
McKenzie	2,503	2,490	2,761	2,431	2,392	2,698	72	98	64	2.9%	3.9%	2.3%
Williams	10,821	10,615	10,910	10,406	10,221	10,479	415	394	431	3.8%	3.7%	4.0%
REGION 1	14,633	14,386	15,036	14,110	13,845	14,522	523	541	514	3.6%	3.8%	3.4%
Bottineau	3,034	3,018	3,231	2,920	2,874	3,046	114	144	185	3.8%	4.8%	5.7%
Burke	1,305	1,255	1,329	1,245	1,189	1,277	60	66	52	4.6%	5.3%	3.9%
McHenry	2,420	2,400	2,555	2,186	2,096	2,244	234	304	311	9.7%	12.7%	12.2%
Mountrail	3,133	3,083	3,182	2,976	2,896	2,973	157	187	209	5.0%	6.1%	6.6%
Pierce	2,340	2,257	2,434	2,257	2,178	2,354	83	79	80	3.5%	3.5%	3.3%
Renville	1,140	1,107	1,171	1,110	1,065	1,129	30	42	42	2.6%	3.8%	3.6%
Ward	25,738	25,558	25,763	24,709	24,427	24,580	1,029	1,131	1,183	4.0%	4.4%	4.6%
REGION 2	39,110	38,678	39,665	37,403	36,725	37,603	1,707	1,953	2,062	4.4%	5.0%	5.2%
Benson	2,778	2,605	3,055	2,614	2,412	2,751	164	193	304	5.9%	7.4%	10.0%
Cavalier	2,441	2,385	2,541	2,318	2,233	2,388	123	152	153	5.0%	6.4%	6.0%
Eddy	1,300	1,266	1,359	1,176	1,102	1,249	124	164	110	9.5%	13.0%	8.1%
Ramsey	6,479	6,410	6,617	6,312	6,192	6,346	167	218	271	2.6%	3.4%	4.1%
Rolette	4,192	4,277	4,565	3,767	3,752	3,986	425	525	579	10.1%	12.3%	12.7%
Towner	1,669	1,591	1,715	1,645	1,543	1,669	24	48	46	1.4%	3.0%	2.7%
REGION 3	18,859	18,534	19,852	17,832	17,234	18,389	1,027	1,300	1,463	5.4%	7.0%	7.4%
Grand Forks	35,974	35,838	35,916	34,949	34,611	34,611	1,025	1,227	1,305	2.8%	3.4%	3.6%
Nelson	1,779	1,775	1,840	1,713	1,674	1,764	66	101	76	3.7%	5.7%	4.1%
Pembina	4,752	4,815	5,022	4,453	4,414	4,603	299	401	419	6.3%	8.3%	8.3%
Walsh	7,491	7,122	7,573	7,197	6,789	7,242	294	333	331	3.9%	4.7%	4.4%
REGION 4	49,996	49,550	50,351	48,312	47,488	48,220	1,684	2,062	2,131	3.4%	4.2%	4.2%
Cass	63,348	62,440	62,140	61,674	60,783	60,724	1,674	1,657	1,416	2.6%	2.7%	2.3%
Ransom	2,640	2,532	2,683	2,570	2,458	2,604	70	74	79	2.7%	2.9%	2.9%
Richland	8,527	8,587	8,341	8,117	8,245	8,073	410	342	268	4.8%	4.0%	3.2%
Sargent	2,800	2,706	2,703	2,717	2,631	2,659	83	75	44	3.0%	2.8%	1.6%
Steele	1,050	973	1,072	1,001	930	1,032	49	43	40	4.7%	4.4%	3.7%
Traill	3,995	3,959	4,161	3,812	3,795	3,973	183	164	188	4.6%	4.1%	4.5%
REGION 5	82,360	81,197	81,100	79,891	78,842	79,065	2,469	2,355	2,035	3.0%	2.9%	2.5%

LABOR FORCE - BY COUNTY - BY REGION

	LABOR FORCE			EMPLOYMENT			UNEMPLOYMENT			RATE		
	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90	APR'91	MAR'91	APR'90
Barnes	5,635	5,851	5,643	5,459	5,595	5,448	176	256	195	3.1%	4.4%	3.5%
Dickey	2,941	2,899	2,979	2,878	2,773	2,908	63	126	71	2.1%	4.3%	2.4%
Foster	2,101	2,042	2,148	2,018	1,947	2,050	83	95	98	4.0%	4.7%	4.6%
Griggs	1,431	1,371	1,522	1,377	1,315	1,459	54	56	63	3.8%	4.1%	4.1%
La Moure	2,254	2,168	2,297	2,179	2,083	2,206	75	85	91	3.3%	3.9%	4.0%
Logan	1,380	1,336	1,401	1,330	1,256	1,363	50	80	38	3.6%	6.0%	2.7%
McIntosh	2,112	2,126	2,191	2,089	2,086	2,148	23	40	43	1.1%	1.9%	2.0%
Stutsman	11,247	11,083	11,578	10,759	10,559	11,134	488	524	444	4.3%	4.7%	3.8%
Wells	2,663	2,665	2,771	2,515	2,449	2,554	148	216	217	5.6%	8.1%	7.8%
REGION 6	31,764	31,541	32,530	30,604	30,063	31,270	1,160	1,478	1,260	3.7%	4.7%	3.9%
Burleigh	34,798	34,392	34,359	33,679	33,110	33,217	1,119	1,282	1,142	3.2%	3.7%	3.3%
Emmons	2,088	2,026	2,118	2,002	1,904	2,021	86	122	97	4.1%	6.0%	4.6%
Grant	1,654	1,579	1,724	1,617	1,528	1,674	37	51	50	2.2%	3.2%	2.9%
Kidder	1,503	1,443	1,536	1,380	1,306	1,387	123	137	149	8.2%	9.5%	9.7%
McLean	4,340	4,215	4,321	4,148	3,921	4,085	192	294	236	4.4%	7.0%	5.5%
Mercer	5,490	5,329	5,462	5,192	4,979	5,153	298	350	309	5.4%	6.6%	5.7%
Morton	12,751	12,738	12,627	12,216	12,010	12,049	535	728	578	4.2%	5.7%	4.6%
Oliver	1,077	1,077	1,032	1,009	1,015	989	68	62	43	6.3%	5.8%	4.2%
Sheridan	1,087	1,051	1,107	1,025	967	1,044	62	84	63	5.7%	8.0%	5.7%
Sioux	1,098	1,110	1,160	1,010	1,010	1,033	88	100	127	8.0%	9.0%	10.9%
REGION 7	65,886	64,960	65,446	63,278	61,750	62,652	2,608	3,210	2,794	4.0%	4.9%	4.3%
Adams	1,703	1,678	1,647	1,672	1,643	1,616	31	35	31	1.8%	2.1%	1.9%
Billings	715	654	678	692	621	642	23	33	36	3.2%	5.0%	5.3%
Bowman	2,033	1,995	2,032	2,006	1,941	1,985	27	54	47	1.3%	2.7%	2.3%
Dunn	1,617	1,517	1,674	1,518	1,437	1,579	99	80	95	6.1%	5.3%	5.7%
Gldn Valley	1,011	967	1,021	980	923	1,002	31	44	19	3.1%	4.6%	1.9%
Hettinger	1,675	1,600	1,744	1,616	1,492	1,677	59	108	67	3.5%	6.8%	3.8%
Slope	434	427	417	393	378	396	41	49	21	9.4%	11.5%	5.0%
Stark	11,454	11,313	11,161	10,968	10,771	10,732	486	542	429	4.2%	4.8%	3.8%
REGION 8	20,642	20,151	20,374	19,845	19,206	19,629	797	945	745	3.9%	4.7%	3.7%
STATE TOTALS	323,250	319,001	324,358	311,276	305,156	311,352	11,974	13,845	13,006	3.7%	4.3%	4.0%

DEFINITIONS

EMPLOYED: A count of individuals 16 years of age or older who worked for pay any time during the week which included the 12th of the month or who worked unpaid for 15 hours or more in a family-operated enterprise. Members of the Armed Forces stationed in the United States are included in the U.S. totals, but are excluded from the North Dakota and MSA counts.

UNEMPLOYED: Includes all individuals who did not work during the survey week, but were available for work except for temporary illness, and had looked for jobs within the preceding four weeks.

LABOR FORCE: The sum of the employed and the unemployed.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE: The number of unemployed as a percent of the total labor force.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX: A monthly statistical measure of the average change in prices in a fixed market basket of goods and services. Though the CPI is often called the "Cost of Living Index," it measures only price change, which is just one of several important factors affecting living costs. The index is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

PRODUCER PRICE INDEX: This index measures the average changes in prices received in primary markets of the United States by producers of commodities in all states of processing. The index is produced by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

NONAGRICULTURAL WAGE AND SALARY EMPLOYMENT: An estimate of all full- and part-time wage and salary employees who worked during, or received pay from the pay period which included the 12th of the month. Estimates measure the number of jobs by industry and reflect employment by place of work.

JOB SERVICE OFFICE LOCATIONS

BISMARCK
216 Second Street
Phone: 224-2880

BEULAH
119 East Main
Phone: 873-5607

DEVILS LAKE
301 South College Drive
Phone: 662-2181

DICKINSON
66 Osborn Drive
Phone: 227-2361

FARGO
1350 32nd Street South
Phone: 237-7113

NDSU-FARGO
Job Information and
Placement Center
211 Ceres Hall
Phone: 237-7111

FORT TOTTEN
Tribal Building
Phone: 766-4221, Ext. 45

FORT YATES
Job Service Building
Phone: 854-7463

GRAFTON
927 12th St. West
Phone: 352-2202

GRAND FORKS
2016 South Washington
Phone: 777-3711

UND-GRAND FORKS
McCannel Hall- Room 141
Phone: 777-3904

HARVEY
119 9th St. West
Phone: 324-4552

HETTINGER
606 2nd Avenue North
Phone: 567-2156

JAMESTOWN
429 2nd Street Southwest
Phone: 251-2256

MANDAN
501 1st Street Northwest
Phone: 663-6461

MINOT
3416 North Broadway
Phone: 857-7650

NEW TOWN
Tribal Administration Building
Phone: 627-4390

OAKES
517 Main Ave.
PHONE: 742-2546

ROLLA
103 East Main
Phone: 477-5631

VALLEY CITY
2425 West Main
Phone: 845-7261

WHAHPETON
524 2nd Avenue North
Phone: 671-2711

WILLISTON
422 1st Avenue West
Phone: 774-4370

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